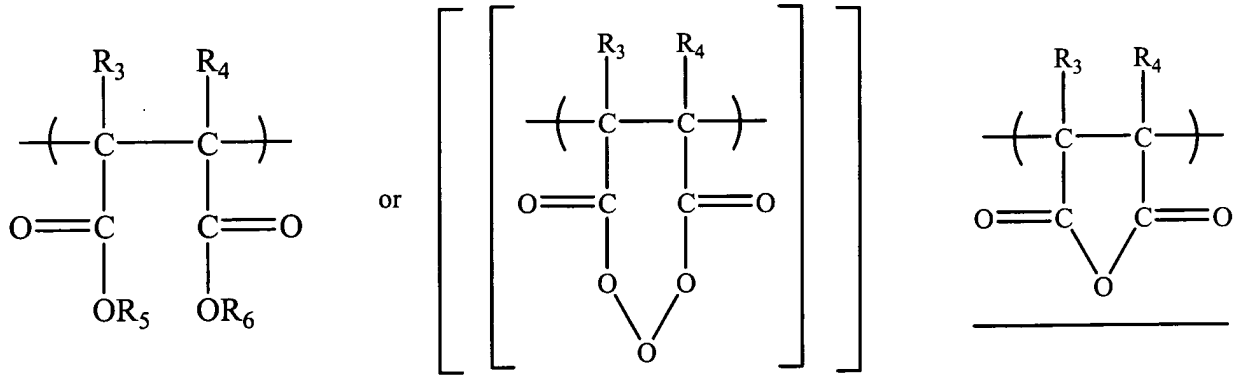
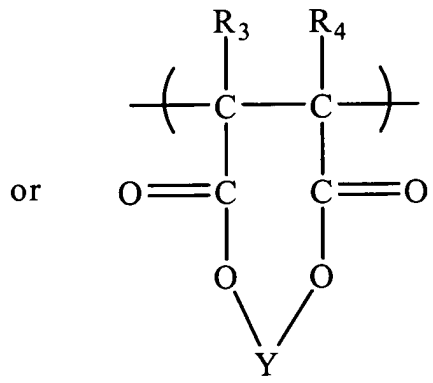
Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend paragraph 0011 by replacing it with the following paragraph:

[0011] In detail, moiety B is of the general formula



or



Please amend Paragraphs Nos. 0028, 0039, and 0040 by replacing such paragraphs with the following replacement paragraphs. The only change in these paragraphs is the correction of the term "EC" to "degrees Celsius."

[0028] In general, the initial polymerization step is carried out at a temperature of from about 0°C ~~EC~~ to about 120°C ~~EC~~ (more preferably from about 30°C ~~EC~~ to about 95°C ~~EC~~ for a period of from about 0.25 hours to about 24 hours and even more preferably from about 0.25 hours to about 5 hours). Usually, the reaction is carried out with continuous stirring.

[0039] Acetone (803 g), maleic anhydride (140 g), itaconic acid (185 g) and benzoyl peroxide (11 g) were stirred together under inert gas in a reactor. The reactor provided included a suitably sized cylindrical jacketed glass reactor with mechanical agitator, a contents temperature measurement device in contact with the contents of the reactor, an inert gas inlet, and a removable reflux condenser. This mixture was heated by circulating heated oil in the reactor jacket and stirred vigorously at an internal temperature of about 65-70°C ~~EC~~. This reaction was carried out over a period of about 5 hours. At this point, the contents of the reaction vessel were poured into 300 g water with vigorous mixing. This gave a clear solution. The solution was subjected to distillation at reduced pressure to drive off excess solvent and water. After sufficient solvent and water have been removed, the solid product of the reaction precipitates from the concentrated solution, and is recovered. The solids are subsequently dried in vacuo. A schematic representation of this reaction is shown below.

[0040] This reaction was carried out in equipment similar to that used in Example 1 above. The following procedure was followed: 847 g purified water was placed into the reactor. Next, 172 g itaconic acid and 130 g maleic anhydride were added with vigorous stirring. This mixture was heated to about 85-90°C ~~EC~~, at which temperature this mixture exists as a clear solution. When the mixture reached the desired temperature, 15 g of potassium persulfate was added to the solution. The reaction mixture was allowed to stir for 3 hours, and a second portion of persulfate, equal to the first, was added, and allowed to react for a further 3 hours. Product was isolated in the same manner as described for Example 1. A schematic representation of this reaction is shown below.